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Foundations of College Writing
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College vs. Jobs

Problem

While some students see coming to college as a “get away” from home, some students do not realize how much more responsibilities they will have to take on that they never have done before. When students think about going to college they think about school work, and mostly social life such as partying. However, many students never really consider how they will have to money to go out and do activities with their friends to have a social life. This is where having a part-time job while in college comes in handy. However, when students think about finding it job it scares them because they have to think about how they will have time for their school work if they have a job. The problem I am addressing in this paper is, “How do college students balance have a job and focusing on school work at the same time?” In this paper, I first provide background information from three articles about working while being a college student: (N/A) *Working Full-time and Studying Full-time: Is It Possible*, Carrs (2014) *Creating a Work/School Balance (A College Student Perspective)*, and McMullens (2014) *9 Tips for Managing the Work-Life-School Balance*. Then, I address this question using interviews that I have collected from students around Bloomsburg University. Finally. I draw conclusions about the culture of working and going to school at Bloomsburg University.

Background

In these three articles that I have listed above, the authors collect their data from personal experiences or some research that they have done on their own. In the article, *Working Full-time and Studying Full-time: Is It Possible*, The author discusses working both full-time at a job and full-time at college. This author explains that since the word “full-time” is seen as being about as much structured activity as a person can handle in conjunction with the requirements of everyday life, then taking on two full-time tasks can be much of a handful. In Carr’s article she discusses her personal experience with working and going to college. She also lists steps on the best way to go about working and going to school. After reading her article, it seems like the best way to have a job and go to school is to have everything planned out. This includes planning out a student’s day and how much time a student will spend on an activity. In McMullen’s article she lists 9 steps for managing a balance between work and school. She discusses how important it is to have a job but gives great examples on how to manage a student’s time efficiently so that the student is successful not only at school, but at their job as well.

All of Carr, McMullen, and the article *Working Full-time and Studying Full-time: Is It Possible* have some things in common about balancing this lifestyle and have a similar pattern to how they see things as well.¹ The pattern that I have noticed in all of these articles is that they have all seemed to realise how important having a job is, especially while being a college student. These authors do not only discuss how it helps students have money to college but they also discuss how it helps them in the future as an employee. For example in McMullen’s article she aims, “Apart from showing your time management, organizational and prioritizing skills, a college job shows future hiring managers that you have grit, willingness to do the dirty work and

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that you can balance a full load of both school and work," she had gotten this quote from, Brad Karsh, president of JB Training Solutions and co-author of "Manager 3.0: A Millennial's Guide to Rewriting the Rules of Management."²

This means that when a college student graduates college, having a job will look highly professional. This benefits the college student in many ways because it shows their future bosses how they can manage time of their own and handle a big workload as well.³ On the other hand, John of Bloomsburg University has told me "Working while in college may be beneficial, however, sometimes it is not so beneficial to my grades." I feel like John feels like working in college is highly overwhelming and that it is hard for him to focus on these two tasks at one time.

Method

To answer these questions as part of my research I did some research myself on the internet to find out some experiments had to say about managing their time. Also, not only did I look on the internet but I also interviewed a few students who I knew had jobs around campus to see what they had to say about working and going to school. As I interviewed these students, I looked around their dorm rooms and noticed patterns as well. In each of these methods used, I looked at the patterns between all three of them to interpret my findings to my research.

Findings

To start off, my findings while doing my own research on this topic was very interesting and as well hopeful. Each article that I had read all had different topics about the question.

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However, all of the articles seemed to have discussed how important having a job in college really is. Therefore, in the end, each article came up with the same conclusion. The most important quote that I had came across in my research was, "In the jobs you have, you're meeting professionals in and out of the industry you're in that will very likely help you once you're ready to transition from college to career as you search for jobs," (McMullen 1) says Debbie Kaylor, director of the Boise State University Career Center in Idaho. These seemed interesting to me because it is highly factual, many students do not think about how their own bosses could help them in the future.

Next, I have interviewed two students that I personally know that has a job while attending Bloomsburg University.⁴ I had asked these students if they find it difficult balancing having a job and college work. One student I had interviewed said "Yes I do, I have noticed that my grades have been dropping because I need to learn how to find some time to study as well." (John 1) The other student that I had interviewed agreed, however, she had a different outlook on it. She had answered this question by stating "It is difficult but not as difficult as other make it seem. I have a daily planner where I set certain time to study and do my school work." (Justine 1)⁵ After these interviews, I have noticed that this indicated that some students have more of a difficult time managing the school and work life. However, could it be possible that the student who has more of a difficult time had always had a problem with managing time? These students also both seemed to be highly satisfied with the benefits of having a job while attending college too. Both students agreed that they feel more responsible and that it will look good for their future career.⁶

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College students who do not have a job while attending school seem to have more money issues when it comes to paying for college. Students need an income, even if it is just a part-time job to have money to spend on their personal items that they will need from month to month, or even money to pay off their tuition. Not all students' parents help them out with paying for school, therefore having a job while in college would be highly beneficial to them. This could also lead students to have less stress because then they will not be worrying about their money situation as much as if they did not have a job.

Conclusion

Based on my observations and my research, it seems like the best way to manage time for school and work is to have a daily planner. Another important aspect is to have certain set times to study or do homework for school and to make sure the students dedicate their times just to that.

Work Cited

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